

## 1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of  
3 Illinois learned with regret of the passing of Prentiss  
4 Thompson of Aurora on Monday, October 20, 2003; and

5 WHEREAS, Prentiss Thompson was born on March 4, 1932 in  
6 Oxford, Mississippi to Webster and Bessie (Peel) Thompson;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, A longtime union steward with Sealmaster  
9 Bearing, Prentiss Thompson was one of the founding members of  
10 the Aurora Community Study Circles pilot program and served  
11 as its vice president when it was established in 1996; Study  
12 Circles runs 20 to 30 groups a year to discuss diversity  
13 issues facing Aurora; Prentiss Thompson attended most of  
14 those groups and helped facilitate some of them; and

15 WHEREAS, In early 2003, Prentiss Thompson was appointed  
16 to the African American Heritage Advisory Board, a new panel  
17 charged with overseeing various Aurora events pertaining to  
18 the black community; although Mr. Thompson was a leader in  
19 the black community, his endeavors were known throughout the  
20 city; and

21 WHEREAS, Prentiss Thompson's Christian beliefs were a  
22 guiding force in his life; he served as a deacon at Gayles  
23 Memorial Baptist in Aurora for longer than the 23 years the  
24 Rev. George Marshall had been the pastor there; Mr. Thompson  
25 was a spiritual leader for the church, someone who always was  
26 positive and believed strongly that anything could be  
27 accomplished if one put one's mind to it; as a youth director  
28 at the church, Mr. Thompson was a strong motivator and always  
29 stressed how essential education was; therefore, be it

30 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL  
31 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with

1 all who knew and loved him, the death of Prentiss Thompson of  
2 Aurora; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to the family of Prentiss Thompson as an expression  
5 of our sincerest condolences.